Miscellanea.

OSBORNE ESTATE, ISLE OF WIGHT.—This estate, recently purchased by her Majesty from Lady Isabella Blatchford, is considered one of the best situations in the island, being placed on a spacious lawn sloping to the sea, affording some of the most beautiful and extensive views of the Solent Sea, Cowes, the New Forest, and the Southampton water, with Portsmouth and Spithead in the distance. Including the park, Osborne great wood, and New Barn Farm, it contains 376 acres. But to this is added the Barton Farm, containing 441 acres, making a total of 817 acres. Barton Farm, also the property of Lady Isabella Blatchford, has now become the freehold of her Majesty, of which formal possession will be taken on the 1st of May. The whole royal purchase embraces an indented shore of the sea of about a mile and a half, Fish-house Creek being the eastern boundary, and Norris Castle the western limit. It extends inland to the Newport high road. Various reports are current respecting the anticipated alterations at Osborne. One states confidently that her Majesty has determined to use Osborne House as a nursery for the royal children, and that the house at Barton is to be taken down, and a suitable palace erected on its site. Another is to the effect that it is only in contemplation to enlarge and restore Barton House, thereby preserving the fine old example of the Elizabethan style, of which it is considered to be a very perfect specimen. A pier will be run out from the beach under Osborne House immediately. From this place in the new yacht-tender, Fairy, the royal party will be enabled to land and embark at all times of the tide.

FALL OF A BUILDING.—FIVE LIVES LOST.—On Friday, the 28th ultimo, a most melancholy accident occurred at Pollokshaws, distant about three miles from Glasgow. Some time ago it was proposed by the Old Trades' Society of Pollokshaws to erect a building in the main street of that town. This building was commenced, and on Thursday, the 27th ultimo, the mason-work of it was finished, and the scaffolding removed the same evening. Close to this building stood a thatched house of one story high, occupied by poor but respectable tenants. The occupants of this humble dwelling, seven in number, had considerable doubts as to the stability of the building erecting adjacent to them, and during the course of the preceding week, remained two nights in a lodging-house, being afraid that the building would fall upon them. On Thursday evening while the wind was blowing a hurricane, the inmates entered their habitation, still under the same fears. They congregated themselves around the hearth, and sat there listening to the storm raging without, until far in the morning. Thinking, then, their fears were groundless, and danger distant, they all retired to rest; but they were not ten minutes stretched upon their beds, than down fell upwards of 20 feet of the gable and chimney-stack, which was very high, of the building, crushing beneath it the humble domicile of these unfortunate beings. The crash was heard in an adjoining house, the inmates of which instantly rose and procured every assistance in their power to have the sufferers removed from the awful situation in which they were placed. Two of the seven were speedily got out, and found to be little injured. It required upwards of two hours, however, of great exertion, before the remainder of the sufferers could be reached. When discovered they were all found to be lying in their beds with life totally extinct.

POMPEII.—The latest excavations made at Pompeii, by M. Vilain XIV., the Belgian chargé d'affaires, have been exceedingly interesting. A house was laid open in the quarter of the people. Twenty workmen were employed at the task, and the entrance-room furnished about twenty-five articles, vases, cups, altars, and bronze pateræ. Another room, from which a narrow passage led to the kitchen, contained some large earthen jars. In the kitchen, the tinning of the saucepans was still bright. A large boiler, two jars with handles, light and transparent, objects exceedingly rare in collections, were also found there. The next excavations were to be made in the workshops of sculpture of the town.

LEVIATHAN AIR ENGINE.—We have lately heard of a most stupendous construction of this kind, said to be the invention of Professor Reinagle, who is securing patents in every civilized country for his discovery, and this will obviously account for our not being able to enter into a definite description of its component parts. Report says, that Professor Faraday, having seen the drawing, and heard the theory and practice of this invention explained, complimented the inventor by declaring, that he had discovered perpetual motion of the most terrific description. It is also stated, that other eminent men have recently seen it, amongst them Professor Byrne, Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Carpue, and some distinguished foreigners, besides very many private friends of the inventor, of great intelligence, who have all expressed their candid opinion of its perfect simplicity, and of its immense power. To enable the public to form some notion of the power obtained, Professor Reinagle has contrived a table apparatus, anything but air-tight, by which he moves 80 lbs. full 2 feet in three seconds (placed on a four-wheeled car) by his breath alone. Even 100 lbs. can be moved in like manner.

NINEVEH.—"The discoveries in architecture and statuary made at Nineveh, by M. Botta," says the *Moniteur Parisien*, "must be of considerable value if we are to judge by the specimens which have arrived at Paris. They consist in pieces of architecture, bassi relievi, and statues, in better or worse preservation. The inscriptions are perfectly legible, but altogether beyond the art of modern deciphering. The king, after having examined these curiosities with great interest, has decided that a vessel belonging to the Government shall be sent to Bassora to transport the whole collection to Paris."

MONUMENT TO DR. WATTS.—The committee under whose management this monument is to be erected, have engaged Mr. Baily, the eminent sculptor, to execute it. The monument will consist of a statue of colossal size, and will be placed upon a pedestal in Abney-park Cemetery, the directors of which have promised to grant a site. No place could be more appropriate, for there, at the residence of Sir Thomas Abney, Dr. Watts spent thirty-six years of his life. There he wrote most of his works, and at a place of worship near to Abney he frequently preached. Mr. Baily says, in a letter to the *Morning Post*, "in consideration of the moral and intellectual benefit conferred on the nation at large by his works, I consented to execute the same in Portland stone, for the money which might be raised, and which does not exceed 300*l.*, though my price would have been, under other circumstances, 500 guineas."

LORD NORTHAMPTON'S SOIREE.—The accomplished and amiable president of the Royal Society gave his closing conversazione on Saturday last, when a larger number of distinguished men were present, and more interesting matters were exposed in the rooms, than we have ever seen there.

CITY BRICKLAYER.—An election took place last week for the office of bricklayer to the corporation of the city of London, when, after a poll between the only two candidates, Mr. Boucher was elected by a majority of sixty-five votes over his competitor, Mr. Ward.

FIRES IN LIVERPOOL.—The total value of the property destroyed by fire in Liverpool, during the last three years, was, in 1842, 517,927*l.*; in 1843, 119,582*l.*; in 1844, 24,391.

STOCKTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—The Bishop of Durham has subscribed 20*l.*; Mr. Bowes, M.P., 15*l.*; and Mr. Farrer, 21.2*s.*; towards the erection of a building for the Mechanics' Institution, at Stockton.

Tenders.

TENDERS delivered for the Alteration of Kingsland Chapel.—W. Wallen, Esq., Architect.

Lawrence and Sons	£1,309 0
Jay	1,280 0
Pritchard	1,269 0
Turner	1,145 0
Haines and Co.	1,064 0
Brigg	1,059 10
Ashby	1,049 0
Hayworth	1,016 0

The Tenders were opened in the presence of the parties, and the lowest accepted.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

[We are compelled by the interference of the Stamp Office to omit the names of the parties to whom tenders, &c., are to be addressed. For the convenience of our readers however, they are entered in a book, and may be seen on application at the office of "The Builder," 2, York-street, Covent-garden.]

For the restoration of the Parish Church of Grays Thurrock, Essex. April 12.

For the erection of a Church in the parish of St. Thomas, Winchester. April 12.

For the supply of 600 Coal Waggons of superior construction, spring mounted, with malleable iron wheels, and calculated to carry about six tons of coals each, for the Great North of England Railway. April 15.

For the erection and building of a Farm-house, Barn, Stable, and other offices, at Hepworth, Suffolk. April 16.

For keeping Battle-bridge and Holloway-road in repair for one or more years. April 17.

For making a Brick Barrel Culvert from the Pump in Much Park-street to Jordan Well, Coventry, and for Excavating and Carting away the soil and rubbish. April 17.

For submitting a plan of a Tread-wheel, and constructing the same in the Common Gaol of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. April 24.

For all the Works to be done in the erection and completion of the new cast-iron Bridge over the Haven of Great Yarmouth, including the finding of labour, certain materials, &c. April 26.

For the construction of the third and fourth divisions of the Chester and Holyhead Railway. April 28.

For the supply of Materials to the Commissioners of the Metropolis Roads. April 30.

For performing the several works in building a new Workhouse at Tenterden. May 2.

For the formation and completion of a new Drain, being about eleven miles long, twenty yards wide, and five yards deep, for the Middle Level Drainage Commissioners. Also for the erection of a Staunch, several Bridges of wood with brick abutments, together with the necessary culverts, and other works. May 8.

For the erection of a Baptist Chapel at Folkstone.

For laying out the Grounds of the Victoria-park Cemetery, and for draining the same, making the roads, paths, and finding all necessary trees, shrubs, materials, &c.

COMPETITIONS.

Plans, sections, and elevations for a Terminus, and other requisite accompanying offices, for the Great Southern and Western Railway, Ireland.

Plans for a Church to be erected within the Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull. May 8.

Plans, Specifications, and Estimates for the Building and Interior Fittings of a Church, to be erected in Gloucester. To contain 600 adults and 200 school children. The shape of the ground is nearly rectangular, and measures on the east side 55 feet, on the west 62, on the north 120, and on the south 112.

APPROACHING SALES OF WOOD, &c. BY AUCTION.

April 14.—On the Estate of Mr. John Welham, near the Mills, Earl Stoneham, Suffolk. Six capital Timber Ashes, of first-rate quality, measuring from 60 to 30 feet in a tree; also 180 Pollard Elms.

April 14.—At Chapple Essex: a large quantity of Ash, Elm, Pollards, and some very good Elm Timber.

April 15.—At the Three Ashes, crossing near Witham, Essex: 1185 Oak Trees, now growing in the woods and fields of Lanhams, and Crossing Lodge Farms. Many of the Trees are of large dimensions.

April 15.—At 23, Fuller-street, Church-street, Bethnal-green: a quantity of Spanish and Honduras Mahogany, several thousand feet of Cherry-tree, Birch and Beech, &c.

April 16.—At Camberwell, Surrey: several Elm Trees, large Walnut and Ash Trees, also the Building Materials of the Grammar School and two large Dwelling-houses.

April 16.—At the Wilfin Inn, Malpas, Cheshire: 68 Oak Trees, and 4 Cyphers.

April 16.—At the Cups Inn, Colchester: above 100 fine Oak Timber Trees, now standing upon Dove House Farm. The metings average from one load to three loads per stick, and of considerable length.

April 17.—At the Roebuck Inn, Loughton, Essex: 100 Oak Timber Trees, very old and sound, and the greater portion of large dimensions.

April 18.—At the Greyhound, Sandy, Bedfordshire: 950 Larch and Scotch Spires.

April 18.—At the George Inn, Froome, Somerset: 310 fine grown Oak Trees now standing on the Orchardleigh Estate. They are of large dimensions, great length, and of very superior quality.

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